

## Crime Author Elmore 'Dutch' Leonard Wows Warren Crowd with Stories

by Jim Stickford

"I agree with Hemingway who said that people who say they want to write, but don't write, really don't want to write."

So said internationally-known crime writer Elmore Leonard, who, along with son and fellow author Peter Leonard, spoke at the Warren Public Library's Civic Center location on Nov. 8.

The two authors shared their thoughts on writing and publishing in today's market, addressing a crowd of about 40 in the library.

Elmore Leonard, referring to Ernest Hemingway, said he was one of his influences, but that his own mother, also a writer, was the one who inspired him to write in the first place.

Peter Leonard talked about his dad, leading with an anecdote about visiting a bookstore recently and coming across a crime thriller that began with the line, "The weather howled like a wounded animal." He later visited his father and asked him what he thought of the line.

"Never start a story from the viewpoint of the weather," said the elder Leonard.

That line is one of Elmore

Leonard's famous 10 rules of writing. Another is, "If something sounds like writing, rewrite it."

The duo's discussions ranged over a variety of topics. Elmore talked about how he got his start in the business. He worked from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. five days a week in the 1950s because he had a day job.

"I tried to write two pages in two hours," Elmore said. "Now I might spend all day on two pages, but back then I didn't know any better. I wrote for the Western pulp magazines and got two cents a word."

Peter said that didn't sound like much money, even for the 1950s.

"It wasn't," Elmore said. "I was paid \$4,000 for the screen rights to '3:10 to Yuma' in the 1950s. When they remade it a few years ago, I didn't get anything."

Peter said one question his father and he get all the time is where do they get their ideas. Elmore said he got his idea for the book, "Out of Sight" – which was later made into a movie with Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney – from seeing a photograph of a female deputy U.S. Marshal in the newspaper.

"She was holding a shotgun on

her hip and was just beautiful," Elmore said. "When I saw that picture, I said to myself, 'She's a book.'"

When the movie was filmed, the director shot it on location around Detroit, Elmore said. George Clooney even came to Elmore's house and they were having a great conversation when every female relative of Leonard's suddenly surrounded Clooney.

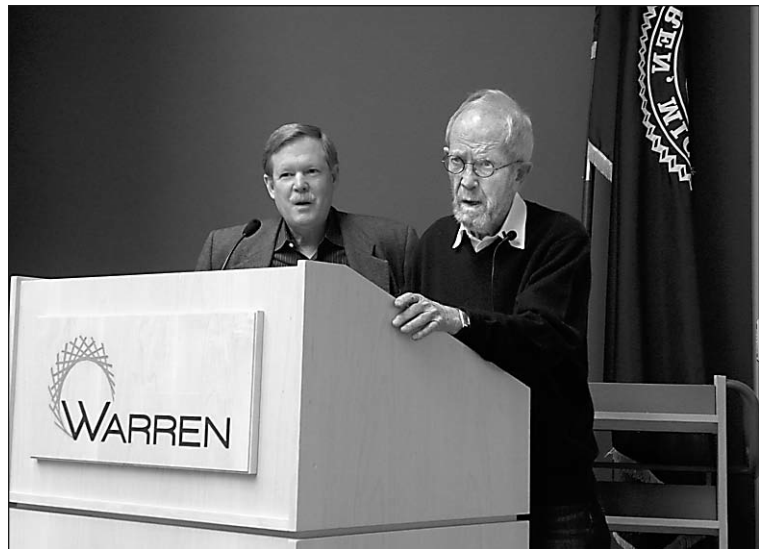
"It was a feeding frenzy," Elmore said.

Elmore Leonard credited his agent, H.N. Swanson, for really getting his career started.

Swanson was an old-school agent who had clients like F. Scott Fitzgerald. He read Elmore's book, "The Big Bounce," and told Elmore that he would make him rich.

Swanson proceeded to get 84 rejection notices before finally selling the book to Hollywood. The movie was so awful that Elmore to this day has never seen the ending. It was remade 35 years later, and Elmore said that movie, too, was terrible.

"I have had two of the worst movies made from my work," Elmore said. "Both from the same book."



Novelist Elmore Leonard and writer-son Peter at Warren library

Getting published is another story, said Peter. He noted that it requires having an agent, but getting published these days is getting harder. Bookstores are fading away and the publishing houses are merging, which means that there are fewer of them.

Elmore said he uses dialogue to move his story along. If he finds that a character has nothing to say, then that character

usually ends up getting shot.

Elmore said that he wrote a play when he was in the fifth grade and didn't write again until he was in college. When he decided to write, he didn't let the fact that he had a full-time job stop him.

"John D. McDonald, a great writer of crime, said that it takes a writer about a million words to get good as a writer," Peter said. "I think that's true."



Covenant board member and van driver Jonathan Cooper

## GM Club, Covenant Team Up to Provide Detroit Needy with Basic Dental Care

This time of year, most charitable giving tends to support food and warm clothing drives.

While local people in need are certainly thankful for warm new coats and hearty meals, they have another urgent need that has, until recently, gone unaddressed.

This need is simple, one most people take for granted: basic dental care.

Some needy metro Detroiters require dental care to alleviate years of chronic pain; others have never seen a dentist for a simple cleaning.

It's not surprising that, when struggling to put food on the table, paying for dental care, or even arranging transportation to a dental appointment, ranks low on the list of priorities for some of those in need.

That's where Covenant Community Care, supported by the GM Club, comes in. Covenant has two specially-equipped trailers they use to bring dental care to those in need, taking care out into the communities that need it.

Dentists and dental students provide a range of dental care services, including exams and X-rays, all on the go. If a patient requires more attention, they are referred to the Covenant dental

clinic on Michigan Avenue in Detroit, where service fees are greatly reduced.

The GM Club supports Covenant with monetary donations, and by helping spread the word about their services, in part, says Joe Wrobel, GM Product Development IT manager, because they've seen the results of the care Covenant provides.

"Covenant makes a direct and positive change in local people's lives," says Wrobel. "I've heard firsthand stories from patients, how they've been able to live without constant pain for the first time in years."

One such patient, profiled on the Covenant Community Care website, is Michael, who was desperate to ease the pain in his

teeth, but who couldn't afford the dental services to address it.

Now, with a full upper and partial lower plate, he's free of pain, and trusts Covenant enough to send his wife for much-needed dental care, too.

GM's Wrobel understands why metro Detroiters choose to donate to charities that provide basic food, clothing, and shelter needs, but he wants people to know there's another need they can help fulfill, one that can make a big difference, too.

More information about Covenant's services and volunteer opportunities, as well as instructions on making a donation, can be found at the Covenant website, or by calling 313-554-1095.

## SAE to Study Coolant Safety Issue

In October 2012, a fourth SAE International Cooperative Research Program (CRP) was launched by the automotive industry to further analyze the safety of the new mobile air conditioner refrigerant, R1234yf.

The participants in the 2012 R1234yf CRP include Audi, BMW, Chrysler, Daimler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, PSA, Renault and Toyota.

The previous three SAE International CRPs related to R1234yf began in 2007, and concluded three years later with a determination that the refrigerant can be used safely in vehicles that are designed for the new refrigerant. R1234yf was judged to be an acceptable alternative for mobile air conditioning systems while meeting new environmental and consumer needs.

Despite previous confirmations of the safety of R1234yf in both laboratory and vehicle testing in September 2012, Daimler raised a new question about the safe usage of R1234yf based on their most recent vehicle tests. In response, leading global automobile manufacturers have joined together in this new SAE International CRP to perform an updated engineering analysis based on the most recent information. This research team is

working as quickly as possible to resolve this question and will issue interim reports as well as a final statement at the conclusion of the CRP's activities.

These SAE International CRP activities are in response to the international regulations by the European Union that require all new type approved vehicles to use a refrigerant with a Global Warming Potential (GWP) below 150. Current global mobile air conditioning systems use R134a, a refrigerant having a GWP of approximately 1,430. R1234yf has a GWP of 4.

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